GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
SECURITY LAPSES AT AIRPORTS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under captioned,`Intruder climbs flight ladder` appearing in the Hindu dated October 3, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof as well as of other incidents of serious security lapse in other airports during the past 3 months.

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officials for the security lapse;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such lapses are not repeated in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.184 FOR ANSWER ON 3.12.2001
(a) Yes, Sir.
(b) At Chennai Airport, on 2.10.2001, at around 8 am, a 28 year old resident of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh was apprehended by the aerobridge operator of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the aerobridge for gaining unauthorised entryto the flight of Saudi Airlines to Riyadh. The person washanded over to Airport Police Station, Meenambakm where acase was registered against the intruder under Section 448,IPC and the intruder was remanded to custody. The investigation is in progress.

There have been 5 more incidents of serious security lapses during the past 3 months. Four incidents related to recovery of ammunition from the baggage of passsengers during secondary check on Jet Airways flights at Mumbai airport. Another incident related to apprehension of an unauthorised person by security staff on 28.9.2001 at Mumbai airport while the unauthorised person was climbing the step ladder of an aircraft belonging to Jet airways.
(c) & (d) Airport security was the responsiblity of the State police at Chennai airport till 18.11.2001. Tamil Nadu State police authorities have been requested to enquire into the incident of security lapse and take action against the security officers found responsible. The response of the State Government is awaited. It is also to be noted that airport security has been handed over to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) w.e.f.18.11.2001 as part of inductionof CISF at all the airports in phases to strengthen airport security by way of unified command, better coordination, standardised compliance of security directions and adequate provision and adequate provision of arms and ammunition. As regards 4 incidents at Mumbai Airport, cases have been registered at Santacruz Police Station, Mumbai. As the responsiblilty of preembarkation security check and access control is with the State police at Mumbai airport, State police authorities have been requested to enquire into the incident and take action against the security officers found responsible.
(e) The following steps have been taken,inter alia, to avoid recurrence of such incidents:

(i) Induction of CISF at all operational airports in a time-bound manner.
(ii) Round the clock guarding of perimeter and intensive patrolling.
(iii) Implementation of strict access control at the airport.
(iv) Sensitisation of all users agencies at airports towards security requirements.